

Caught Between Injuries in the Trucking Industry

Between 2000 and 2004, 85 Washington trucking company workers were seriously injured from being caught between two objects resulting in 8,700 lost work days.



The injuries from these accidents were so serious, the workers had to take time off from work or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$2.44 per hour per employee paid by employers in the general trucking industry. A trucking company with five full-time employees with an average rate of injuries (claims) would pay approximately \$24,400 in premiums in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries, your "experience rating" could increase by 25% and your premiums would increase to \$3.04 per hour per employee. In a year, that would be an increase of \$6000 to \$30,400 for five full time employees.

Causes of caught between injuries

The most common causes of injury accidents are workers being caught between a moving vehicle, suspended load or dolly and a loading dock, support pole, wall, appliances, crates, floor, etc.



He should be looking back and she should not be there.

Ways to prevent injuries from being caught between objects

- Never assume that the driver of a vehicle or an equipment operator sees you from the vehicle or equipment.
- Position chocks to prevent vehicles from inadvertently lunging should a foot slip from the clutch of the operator pressing the accelerator instead of the break.
- Always install safety locks or other safeguards before getting under or between two objects that have the potential of trapping you.
- Make sure all vehicle and equipment operators are training on the equipment.
- Forklift operators must always look in the direction of travel.